



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

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Date: October 7, 2002

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

7 am EDT Monday October 7, 2002

Rainfall amounts, less than a tenth of an inch this morning otherwise none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, south then west 10 to 15 mph today, north 10 mph tonight, north then east 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, dropping from near 60 this morning to near 40 by Tuesday morning.

Drying conditions, becoming good this afternoon, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, moderate dew tonight, heavy dew Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 40 today, 80 Tuesday.

There is a 20 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Late season hay cutting will be generally good for much of the week with heavy overnight dew but little threat of rain and good daytime drying.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight due to wind but will likely drop to 24 to 28 Tuesday night.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity is becoming short in the south and will continue to decrease for much of the week.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 14, 2002 to October 20, 2002 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am10/07/02

Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 90 degrees at Atlantic City Marina, on October 4, 2002 and 40 degrees at Charlotteburg on October 6, 2002.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.35 inches north, 0.09 inches central, and 0.03 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.32 inches at Flemington on October 4, 2002 to October 5, 2002.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 91 percent north, 80 percent central, and 57 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 64 degrees north, 67 degrees central, and 69 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 10/7/02

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.23	26.88	-2.36	84	46	66	10	3297	642	84
Canoe Brook	.35	30.98	.23	88	46	67	11	3446	774	88
Charlotteburg	.36	28.24	-2.91	86	40	63	9	2806	700	89
Flemington	.51	30.66	1.34	84	45	65	9	3296	557	93
Long Valley	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Newton	.29	26.07	-2.49	85	45	64	11	3038	677	87
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.04	26.51	-1.97	87	50	70	12	3622	690	78
Long Branch	.12	28.73	-.10	85	50	69	10	3349	471	66
New Brunswick	.22	29.17	.23	86	48	67	8	3467	404	87
Pemberton	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
Toms River	.01	29.22	-.32	86	47	69	11	3509	636	62
Trenton	.08	26.07	-1.26	85	49	67	8	3554	364	65
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	.00	21.44	-2.96	90	59	73.	12	3745	777	36
Cape May C.H.	.00	23.60	-1.99	86	52	71.	9	3800	843	29
Downstown	.03	24.68	-2.08	86	47	69.	9	3611	395	53
Glassboro	.10	22.47	-5.75	86	54	70.	11	3958	816	64
Hammonton	.02	24.60	-3.55	87	48	70.	11	3605	428	52
Pomona	.01	24.36	-1.01	88	49	70.	12	3585	634	47
Seabrook	.02	26.10	.22	88	55	72.	12	4027	790	57
South Harrison	.07	24.17	-3.43	86	52	71.	N/A	3843	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Scattered showers helped replenish soil moisture levels across the state. Despite recent rains, the drought emergency remains in effect. Although most reservoirs are at near normal levels, groundwater levels and stream flow are still below normal in many areas. Outdoor activities included harvesting vegetables, combining corn, baling hay, and planting cover crops. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.4. Top soil moisture was rated 47% short and 53% adequate. Small grain producers reported that recent rains have enhanced seed germination. Some small grains have already emerged, due to recent shower activity and unseasonably warm temperatures. Field corn and soybean harvest continued, with many producers reporting reduced yields and low test weights due to the drought. Hay producers were finishing up their last cutting. Some producers began over seeding hay fields and pastures as weather permitted. Livestock producers remain concerned over the potential for elevated nitrate levels in forage crops due to the drought. Lettuce, cabbage, sweet potato, broccoli, and pumpkin harvest continued on schedule. Some vegetable producers pulled up plastic mulch and began fall cleanup of greenhouses and fields. Orchard producers made good progress harvesting apples. Crop condition was rated mostly fair to good. Cranberry producers reported that the crop is coloring nicely, although some expressed concern over low water levels in the bogs. Crop condition is rated as mostly good, with harvest getting underway in some areas.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE				RANGE AND PASTURE			
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR		CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%	VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	47%	28%	0%	POOR	10%	20%	0%
ADEQUATE	53%	72%	99%	FAIR	80%	52%	56%
SURPLUS	0%	0%	1%	GOOD	10%	28%	44%
				EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

* JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 7, 2002

Acorn Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the prolonged heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their planting due to the prolonged high heat and low rainfall. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Butternut Squash – Smaller sizes being seen due to the prolonged heat. Less quantity this year as growers scaled back their planting due to the summer growing conditions. Low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Cabbage – Green, Red, and Savoy available in increasing quantities. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties peaking but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Cauliflower – Quantity expected to build over each of the next two weeks.

Collards & Escarole/Endive – Increasing quantities available each week. The cooler fall temperatures are great for quality. All varieties peaking but low prices are causing some product to remain in the field.

Cucumbers - Good quality and decreasing quantities than usual due to the hot and dry growing conditions. Less quantity this year as some growers scaled back their planting plans due to those growing conditions. Finishing up soon.

Eggplant – Good quality and decreasing quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up soon.

Italian Eggplant – Good quality and decreasing quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up soon.

Sicilian Eggplant – Good quality and decreasing quantities through the end of the month. Size has been less due to hot and dry growing conditions. Finishing up soon.

Greens – The prolonged drought and high heat has caused some growers to scale back on their fall planting plans. Expect a decreased quantity overall of fall greens. Spinach and Boston lettuce are being harvested in quantity now. An increasing quantity of Romaine is also being harvested with good quantity expected next week. Fall greens will be harvested until frost next month.

Green Beans – Good quality but hot and dry weather growing conditions have caused decreased volume and size variability. This trend reversing with the cooler weather.

Green Onions – Good quality and quantity available.

Herbs – Increasing quantities available now for Basil, Mint, Mustard, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Arugula, and Baby Arugula as the cooler fall temperatures will increase quality, and quantity. All varieties peaking. Fall quantities of herbs seem to be less as some growers seem to have scaled back on their planting plans.

Leeks - Good quality and increasing quantity of June planted varieties available.

Napa Cabbage – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the coolerfall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity.

Peppers – Good quality and decreasing quantity are available. Finishing up.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) – Good quality and decreasing quantity available each week and finishing soon. Size has been less due to the hot and dry growing conditions.

Plum Tomatoes – Good quality and decreasing quantities available. Finishing up.

Pumpkins – Available in increasing quantities each week. Long term heat and lack of rain created tough growing conditions that will mean less quantity and size than last year. Quality should be excellent though as there has been a lack of disease pressure.

Shanghai Bok Choi – Though quantity and size had been less with the hot and dry summer weather, this trend is now reversing as the cooler fall temperatures are increasing quality and quantity.

Sweet Corn – Minimal commercial quantity available. Finishing up.

Sweet Potatoes – Quality and increasing quantities each week.

Tomatoes – Good quality and decreasing quantities available. Finishing up.

White Potatoes – Good quantity and quality.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and decreasing quantity available. Size has been less due to the hot and dry weather. Finishing up soon.

Zucchini - Good quality and decreasing quantity available. Size has been less due to the hot and dry weather. Finishing up soon.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cranberries – Look for harvest to start during the second week of October. Quantity will build over several weeks and be at peak during November. Available through Christmas.

**PROVIDED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.*